

6226.0 - Participation, Job Search and Mobility, Australia, February 2018

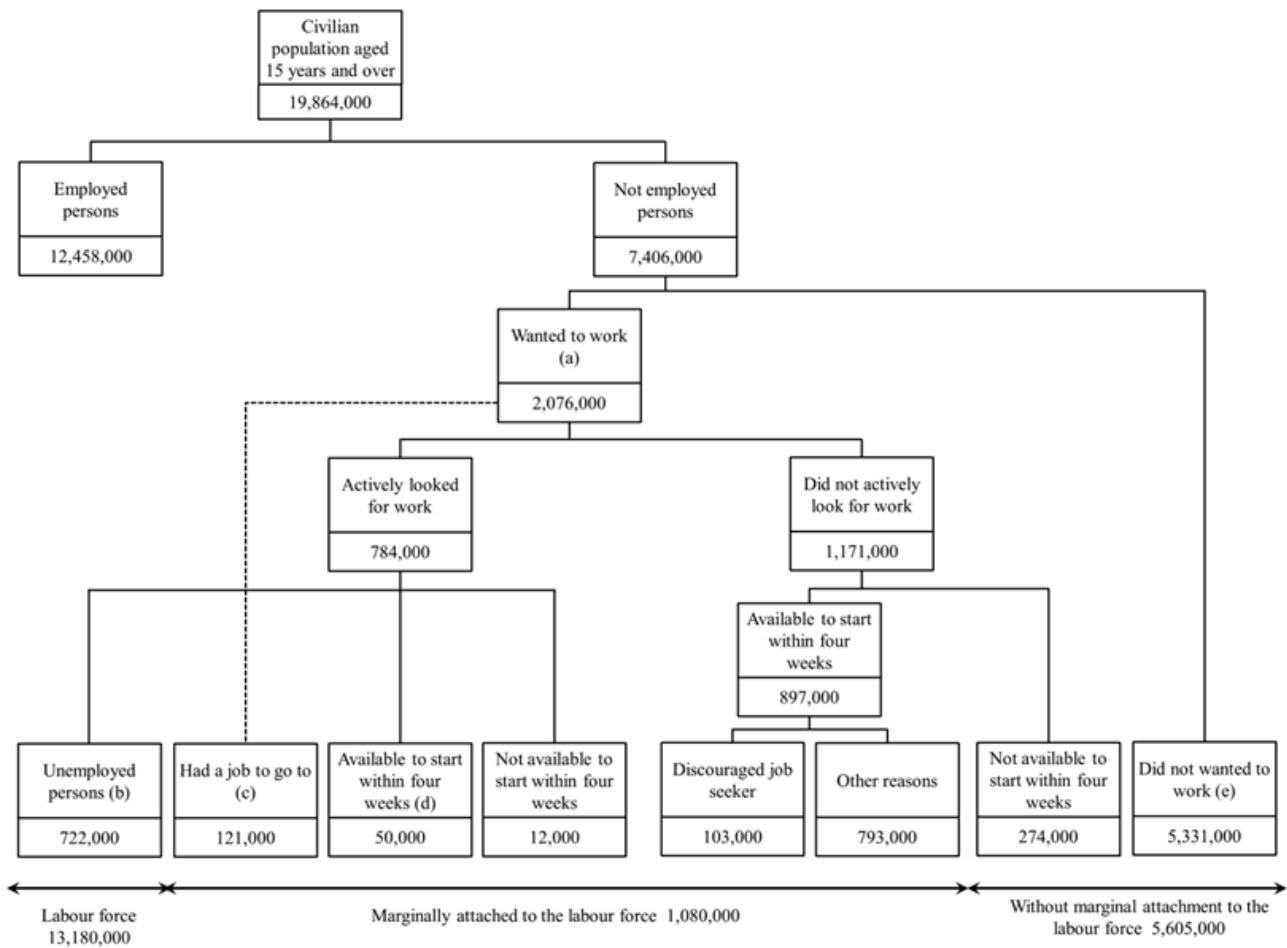
Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 09/08/2018

Summary

Key Findings

KEY FINDINGS

In February 2018, the Participation, Job Search and Mobility (PJSM) survey estimated 62.7% the civilian population aged 15 years and over were employed and 37.3% were not.



(a) Includes people who 'Might want to work'.

(b) Includes people who had a job to go to and could have started in the reference week – 'Future starters'.

(c) Refers to people who had a job to go to, but were not available to start in the reference week. This includes people who were available within 4 weeks (76.4%) and those who were not available within 4 weeks (23.6%).

(d) Refers to people who were not available to start in the reference week.

(e) Includes people who are permanently unable to work and those who 'Did not know'.

EMPLOYED

Of those who were employed at February 2018:

- 9.0% (1,120,000), were underemployed (Table 1);
 - the median duration of insufficient work for underemployed part-time workers was 43 weeks (Table 5).
 - 46.0% of part-time underemployed workers reported having a period of insufficient work of a year or more (Table 5).

- 17.9% of part-time underemployed workers stated they would move interstate and 21.9% said they would move intrastate if a suitable job was offered (Table 6).
- 49.5% of part-time underemployed workers did not look for work or more hours in the 12 months to February 2018 (Table 7).
- the top five steps underemployed people took to find work were (Table 6):
 - “Looked at advertisements for jobs on the Internet, in a newspaper or on notice boards” – 40.4%;
 - “Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work” – 34.0%;
 - “Asked current employer for more work” – 32.0%
 - “Answered an advertisement for a job on the Internet, in a newspaper or on notice boards” – 31.2%; and
 - “Contacted friends or relatives” – 22.6%.

NOT EMPLOYED

Of those not employed at February 2018 (Table 1):

- 90.3% (6,685,000), were classified as not in the labour force at February 2018.
- 9.7% (722,000), were classified as unemployed at February 2018.

Of those classified as not in the labour force at February 2018:

- 79.7% (5,330,000), either did not want to work, or were permanently unable to work (Table 1);
- 16.2% (1,080,000), were classified as marginally attached to the labour force (Table 1);
 - 51% of those who were marginally attached to the labour force were aged between 15 to 34 years (Table 8).
 - 28% of those who were marginally attached had a job within the last 12 months (Table 9).
 - 9.6% of those who were marginally attached to the labour force were classified as discouraged job seekers (Table 1).
 - 49.7% of discouraged job seekers were aged 55 and over (Table 8).

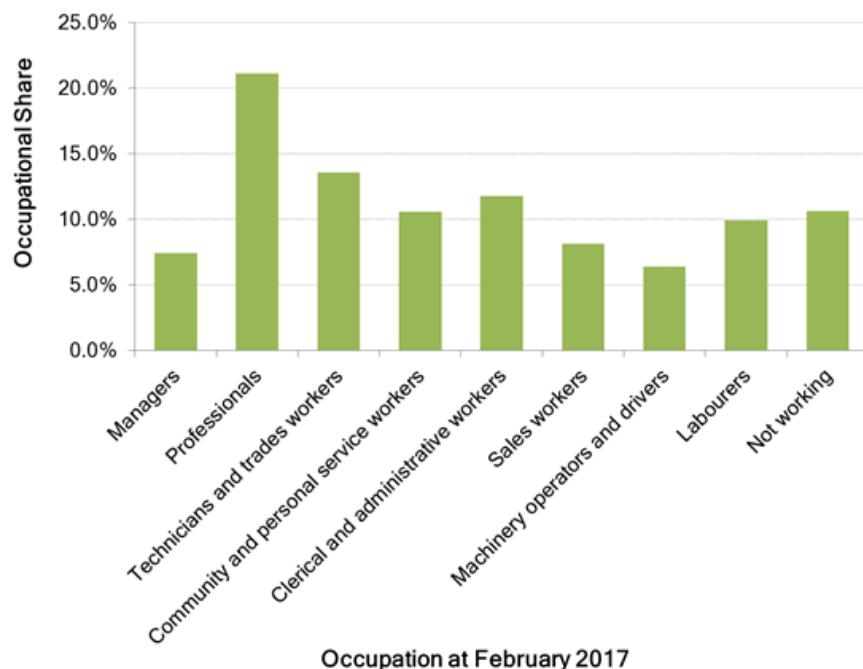
Of those classified as unemployed at February 2018:

- 89.0% (642,000), reported having difficulty finding work (Table 12);
 - the highest category cited as the main difficulty finding work for people who were unemployed was “Too many applicants for available jobs”, with 19.2% citing it as the main difficulty they faced (Table 12).
 - the top five steps unemployed people took to find work were (Table 13):
 - “Looked at advertisements for jobs on the Internet, in a newspaper or on notice boards” – 89.2%;
 - “Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work” – 86.2%;
 - “Answered an advertisement for a job on the Internet, in a newspaper or on notice boards” – 75.6%;
 - “Contacted friends or relatives” – 51.6%; and
 - “Had an interview with an employer” – 42.6%.

MOBILITY: CHANGES TO LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS FROM FEBRUARY 2017 TO 2018

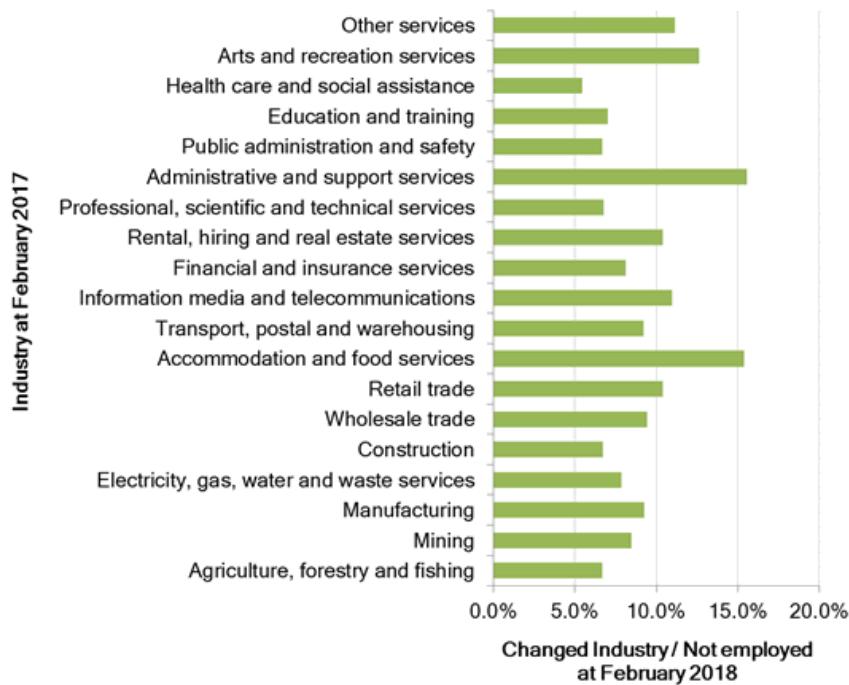
- 8.1% (1,005,000) of employed persons, reported changing employers or businesses in the 12 months up to February 2018 (Table 18).
 - of those who reported changing employers or businesses in the 12 months up to February 2018, 21.1% were Professionals at February 2017 (Table 20).

Occupational share of those who changed employer / business in the last 12 months



- 1.4% (268,000) of the civilian population aged 15 and over reported being retrenched from their last job (Table 17).
- 12.3% (238,000) of people, who were employed in the Retail trade or Accommodation and services industries at February 2017, reported either having a job in a different industry or not being employed at February 2018 (Table 19).

Changing Industry from Feb-17 to Feb-18



Improvements to Participation, Job Search and Mobility 2018

IMPROVEMENTS TO PARTICIPATION, JOB SEARCH AND MOBILITY 2018

Regular rebenchmarking

From this issue onwards, Participation, Job Search and Mobility will move to regular rebenchmarking to reflect the most recently available release of Estimated Resident Population (ERP) data.

Estimates have been revised to incorporate the latest benchmarks and all estimates, including 2018, are comparable with estimates published in the March 2018 issue of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0).

Trend factor adjustments

To reduce the impact of seasonal and irregular effects on total employment and unemployment, the estimates have been adjusted by factors based on trend Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates (as published in March 2018). For example, the unemployment estimates collected in February, have a seasonal pattern of typically higher estimates, the factors applied result in a decrease to the total number of unemployed to match trend LFS estimates. For more information refer to the Explanatory Notes.

Extension of time series

Time series data contained in tables 1,2,3,12 and 17 have been extended back to incorporate more historical data. Where necessary, and possible, series have been reconstructed to ensure conceptual consistency over time. For more information on the time series comparability of the different series please refer to the Time series comparability tab in each spreadsheet.

Notes

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

The statistics in this release were compiled from the Participation, Job Search and Mobility, Australia (PJSM) survey conducted throughout Australia in February 2018 as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). Questions were asked of persons aged 15 years and over.

This survey informs on the following broad labour market issues: Labour force participation potential; underemployment and marginal attachment; as well as job search experience and labour mobility. This information can be cross classified by characteristics such as duration of job search, last job details, hours worked, industry and occupation as well as personal characteristics.

Care should be taken when comparing the estimates from 2018 PJSM survey with previous years topics as Persons Not In The Labour Force (PNILF) and Underemployed Workers (UEW) were previously collected in September and Job Search Experience (JSE) in July and Labour Mobility (LMOB) was collected in February. Collection of data from this combined survey was undertaken in February. The populations used in each may not be directly comparable. Please see the Time series comparability tab in each time series spreadsheet for further information.

MICRODATA

Participation, Job Search and Mobility 2018 microdata will be available via TableBuilder (cat. no. 6226.0.00.001). For more information see About TableBuilder.

ROUNDING

As estimates have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

INQUIRIES

For more information about ABS data available on request, contact National Information and Referral Service in Canberra on 1300 135 070 or via email to <client.services@abs.gov.au>. The ABS Privacy Policy outlines how the ABS handles any personal information that you provide to us.

About this Release

This survey will inform on the following broad labour market issues - Labour force participation potential, underemployment and marginal attachment, as well as job search experience and labour mobility.

This information can be cross classified by characteristics such as duration of job search, last job details, hours worked, industry and occupation as well as personal characteristics.

History of Changes

13/08/2018 Table 1 - Changed to ensure consistency with Table 2.

Table 2 - Data label changes and revisions to underemployment series to incorporate availability criteria specific to supplementary surveys.

Table 3 - People who usually work part-time hours but worked full-time hours in the reference week have been excluded to more accurately reflect the population in the table.

Table 11 - The data item 'Had a job to go to' has been removed from the table and the totals recalculated to ensure consistency across the published tables..

09/08/2018 In the Media Release, the top three reasons people who were unemployed cited as being main difficulty in finding work were incorrect and have been updated. No other data has been affected.

Explanatory Notes

Explanatory Notes

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 The statistics in this release were compiled from the Participation, Job Search and Mobility (PJSM) survey conducted throughout Australia in February 2018, as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS).

2 Information about survey design, scope, coverage and population benchmarks relevant to the monthly LFS, which also applies to supplementary surveys, can be found in the publication Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0).

CONCEPTS, SOURCES AND METHODS

3 The conceptual frameworks used in the monthly LFS align closely with the standards and guidelines set out in Resolutions of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians. Descriptions of the underlying concepts and structure of Australia's labour force statistics, and the sources and methods used in compiling these estimates, are presented in Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY SCOPE

4 The scope of the LFS is restricted to persons aged 15 years and over and excludes the following persons:

- members of the permanent defence forces;
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from the Census and estimated populations;
- short term overseas residents in Australia; and
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants).

PARTICIPATION JOB SEARCH AND MOBILITY SCOPE

5 In addition to the LFS scope exclusions, PJSM also excludes students at boarding schools, patients in hospitals, residents of homes (e.g. retirement homes, homes for persons with disabilities), and inmates of prisons.

6 PJSM was conducted in both urban and rural areas in all states and territories, but excluded persons living in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

COVERAGE

7 The estimates in this publication relate to persons included in the survey in February 2018. In the LFS, coverage rules are applied, which aim to ensure that each person is associated with only one dwelling, and hence has only

one chance of selection in the survey. See Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) for more details.

SAMPLE SIZE

8 Supplementary surveys are not always conducted on the full LFS sample. Since August 1994 the sample for supplementary surveys has been restricted to no more than seven-eighths of the LFS sample.

9 This survey is fully based on the sample introduced after the 2011 Census of Population and Housing. For more information, see the Article in the May 2013 issue of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0).

RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

10 Estimates in this publication are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors:

- Sampling error is the difference between the published estimate and the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. For more information, see the Technical Note.
- Non-sampling errors are inaccuracies that occur because of imperfections in reporting by respondents and interviewers, and errors made in coding and processing data. These inaccuracies may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and effective processing procedures.

SEASONALITY

11 The estimates are based on information collected in the survey month (February) and, due to seasonality, may not be representative of other months of the year.

12 To reduce the impact of seasonality on the different estimates of labour force status, the estimates have been adjusted by factors based on trend LFS estimates. These factors were applied at the State and Territory, Sex, employment, unemployment and residual Not in the Labour Force levels, based on the trend LFS series as published in the March 2018 issue of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0). This adjustment accounts for February seasonality and irregular effects.

13 Historical estimates re-published in this issue from surveys conducted in different survey months (e.g. March and September) will be subject to different seasonal impacts, which may result in an observable break in series between the historical data and data collected in PJSM. Trend factors have also been applied to these historical estimates to reduce the impact of seasonality on the estimates.

CLASSIFICATIONS USED

14 Country of birth data are classified according to the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 2011 (cat. no. 1269.0).

15 Occupation data are classified according to ANZSCO - Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, 2013, Version 1.2 (cat. no. 1220.0).

16 Industry data are classified according to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006 (Revision 2.0) (cat. no. 1292.0).

17 Education data are classified according to the Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001 (cat. no. 1272.0).

COMPARABILITY OF TIME SERIES

18 The LFS estimates and estimates from the supplementary surveys, (e.g. PJSM) are calculated in such a way as to sum to the independent estimates of the civilian population aged 15 years and over (population benchmarks). Generally, revisions are made to population benchmarks for the LFS following the final rebasing of population estimates to the latest five-yearly Census of Population and Housing. These population benchmarks are updated quarterly based on Estimated Resident Population (ERP) data. However, the estimates from previous supplementary surveys are not normally revised to reflect the latest benchmarks.

19 From August 2015, Labour Force Estimates have been compiled using population benchmarks based on the most recently available release of ERP data, continually revised on a quarterly basis. At the time of publication, this issue's estimates are comparable with the published labour force estimates for March 2018.

20 From this issue (February 2018) onwards, the estimates in this publication will move to regular rebenchmarking to reflect the latest revisions to ERP data and updated trend LFS estimates.

21 Caution should be exercised when comparing results from the 2018 PJSM to previous PNILF, UEW, JSE and LMOB surveys as the populations used in each may not be directly comparable.

COMPARABILITY WITH PREVIOUS SURVEYS

22 Care should be taken when comparing the estimates from PJSM with previous years topics as PNILF and UEW were previously collected in September, JSE in July and LMOB was collected in February. Collection of data from this combined survey was undertaken in February.

Persons Not In the Labour Force

23 PNILF was first conducted in May 1975 and again in May 1977. From 1979 to 1987 the survey was collected twice a year (March and September). From 1988 to 2013 it was conducted annually in September.

24 Results of previous surveys were published in Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6220.0); and the standard data service Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6220.0.40.001) for 1994 and 1995 (available in hardcopy only).

25 For more information on the history of changes to PNILF, see the Explanatory Notes (cat. no. 6220.0).

Underemployed Workers

26 UEW was conducted in May 1985, 1988 and 1991. In 1994, the survey became an annual survey and until 2013 was collected each September.

27 Results of previous surveys were published in Underemployed Workers, Australia (cat. no. 6265.0); and the standard data service Underemployed Workers, Australia (cat. no. 6265.0.40.001) for 1994 and 1995.

28 For more information on the history of changes to UEW, see the Explanatory Notes (cat. no. 6265.0).

Job Search Experience

29 JSE was conducted annually in July from 2002 to 2013. Results of similar surveys on the job search experience of unemployed persons conducted in July 1984, July 1985, June 1986, July 1988, July 1990, June 1991, and annually from July 1992 to July 2001 were published in various issues of Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons, Australia (cat. no. 6222.0).

30 Information on persons who had started work for an employer for wages or salary during the 12 months up to the end of the reference week was collected in June 1986 and two-yearly from July 1990 to July 2000 and was published in Successful and Unsuccessful Job Search Experience, Australia (cat. no. 6245.0).

31 For more information on the history of changes to JSE, see the Explanatory Notes (cat. no. 6222.0).

Labour Mobility

32 Similar surveys were conducted in November 1972, February 1975, February 1976, annually from February 1979 to February 1992 and biennially from February 1994 to February 2012 and most recently in February 2013.

33 Results of previous surveys were published in Labour Mobility, Australia (cat. no. 6209.0).

34 For more information on the history of changes to LMOB, see the Explanatory Notes (cat. no. 6209.0).

COMPARABILITY WITH MONTHLY LFS STATISTICS

35 Due to differences in the scope, sample size and reference period of this supplementary survey and that of the monthly LFS, the estimation procedure may lead to some small variations between labour force estimates from this survey and those from the LFS.

36 For example, PJSM provides data on the main reason for leaving or losing a person's last job in the previous 12 months, such as retrenchment. PJSM provides a micro analysis understanding of retrenchment dynamics for the Labour Force. To observe the frequency of the number of persons retrenched users should refer to the Labour Force quarterly retrenchment data (see Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly Feb 2016 cat. no. 6291.0.55.003).

37 The ABS underemployment framework uses a threshold (35 hours in the reference week) based on the boundary between full-time and part-time work.

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

38 A number of Datacubes (spreadsheets) containing all tables produced for this publication are available from the

Downloads tab of the publication. The Datacubes present tables of estimates and their corresponding Relative Standard Errors (RSEs).

39 For users who wish to undertake a more detailed analysis of the data, the survey microdata will be released through the TableBuilder product. For more details, refer to the TableBuilder information, Microdata, Participation, Job Search and Mobility, Australia (cat. no. 6226.00.001). For more information see About TableBuilder.

40 Special tabulations are available on request. Subject to confidentiality and sampling variability constraints, tabulations can be produced from the survey incorporating data items, populations and geographic area selections to meet individual requirements. These will be provided in electronic form. All enquiries should be made to the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

NEXT SURVEY

41 This survey is to be conducted next in February 2019.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

42 ABS surveys draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated: without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the **Census and Statistics Act, 1905**.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

43 Refer to Related Information tab for other ABS publications which may be of interest.

44 Current publications and other products released by the ABS are available from the Statistics Page on the ABS website. The ABS also issues a daily Release Advice on the website which details products to be released in the week ahead.

Glossary

GLOSSARY

Active steps taken to find work

Active steps taken by unemployed persons in their search for work during the current period of unemployment include:

- wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work;
- answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper;
- answered an advertisement for a job on the Internet;
- answered an advertisement for a job on noticeboards;
- had an interview;
- contacted friends or relatives;
- advertised or tendered for work;
- registered with a Job Services Australia provider; or
- registered with any other employment agency.

Actively looking for work

Persons who were taking active steps to find work. Active steps comprise:

- writing, telephoning or applying to an employer for work;
- answering an advertisement for a job;
- checking or registering with any employment agency;
- advertising or tendering for work; and
- contacting friends or relatives.

Age of youngest child

Age of the youngest child, 12 years and under, in the household.

Available to start work

Refers to employed or unemployed persons who were available to start work or more hours either in the reference week, or in the four weeks subsequent to the interview.

Available to start work within four weeks

Persons who were available to start work within four weeks or, for persons with children aged 12 years and under, could start work within four weeks if suitable child care was available.

Change in work

Employees were considered to have had some change in work if they had been with their current employer for one year or more at February 2016 and reported that, in the 12 months to February 2017, they had:

- been promoted;
- transferred to a different position;
- changed usual hours worked; or
- changed occupation.

Contributing family workers

Persons who work without pay in an economic enterprise operated by a relative.

Did not want to work

Persons who were not classified as employed or unemployed who answered 'no' when asked if they would like a job.

Discouraged job seekers

Persons with marginal attachment to the labour force who wanted to work and were available to start work within the next four weeks but whose main reason for not actively looking for work was that they believed they would not find a job for any of the following reasons:

- considered to be too young or too old by employers;
- believes ill health or disability discourages employers;
- lacked necessary schooling, training, skills or experience;
- difficulties because of language or ethnic background;
- no jobs in their locality or line of work;
- no jobs suitable hours; and
- no jobs at all.

Duration of current period of insufficient work

For full-time workers who worked fewer than 35 hours in the reference week due to economic reasons, refers to the number of weeks they have been working fewer than 35 hours a week.

For part-time workers who would prefer to work more hours, refers to the number of weeks they have wanted to work more hours.

As periods of insufficient work are recorded in full weeks and rounded down, this results in a slight understatement of duration.

Duration of current period of unemployment

The period of time from when an unemployed person began looking for work until the end of the reference week; or the period of time since an unemployed person last worked in any job for two weeks or more until the end of the reference week; whichever was the shorter period. Brief periods of work (of less than two weeks) since the person began looking for work are disregarded.

Duration of looking for work before current job

The number of weeks or years that employed persons were looking for work before being offered their current job or starting their own business. For employed persons who had worked before, it includes any time they were looking for work before leaving their previous employer.

Economic reasons

Economic reasons for full-time workers having worked fewer than 35 hours in the reference week are:

- there was no work or not enough work available, e.g. due to material shortages; or
- they were stood down.

Employed persons

Persons aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week:

- worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind, in a job or business or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers); or
- worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers); or
- were employees who had a job but were not at work and were:
 - away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week;
 - away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four week period to the end of the reference week;
 - away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement;
 - on strike or locked out;
 - on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job; or
- were employers or own account workers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

Employees

An employed person who does not operate their own incorporated or unincorporated enterprise. An employee works for a public or private employer and receives remuneration in wages, salary, on a commission basis (with or without a retainer), tips, piece-rates, or payment in kind.

Family

Two or more persons, one of whom is at least 15 years of age, who are related by blood, marriage (registered or de facto), adoption, step or fostering; and who are usually resident in the same household. The basis of a family is formed by identifying the presence of a couple relationship, lone parent-child relationship or other blood relationship. Some households will, therefore, contain more than one family.

Family reasons for not actively looking for work

Includes ill health of someone other than themselves, caring for children and other family considerations.

First job ever held lasting two weeks or more

Refers to employees (excluding Owner Managers of Incorporated Enterprises (OMIES)) who had never worked for two weeks or more before starting their current job.

Full-time preference

Persons who preferred to work 35 hours or more a week. For this survey, full-time preference is derived by applying data collected on respondents' preferred number of hours to those who intended to or might enter the labour force in the next 12 months.

Full-time or part-time status of last job

The perception of persons of whether they worked full-time or part-time in their last job.

Full-time workers

Employed persons who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and others who, although usually working fewer than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.

Future starters

Persons waiting to start, within four weeks of the end of the reference week, a new job that they have already obtained (and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then). Under International Labour Organisation (ILO) guidelines, these persons do not have to be actively looking for work to be classified as unemployed.

Had a job to go to

Persons who were waiting to start a job, but would not be starting within four weeks. Also includes persons who had a job but, up to the end of the reference week, had been away from work without pay for four weeks or longer and had not been actively looking for work.

Had worked before

Refers to employees (excluding OMIES) who had worked before and were either out of work or changed their

employer before starting their current job.

Industry

An industry is a group of businesses or organisations that undertake similar economic activities to produce goods and/or services. In this publication, industry refers to ANZSIC Division as classified according to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006 (Revision 2.0) (cat. no. 1292.0).

Intention to enter the labour force in the next 12 months

The intention of persons to work or look for work in the 12 months following the interview.

Interstate

Refers to whether persons were prepared to move to another state or territory if offered a suitable job.

Intrastate

Refers to whether persons were prepared to move to another part of their state or territory if offered a suitable job.

Job

Any paid employment, full-time or part-time, lasting two weeks or more.

Job starters

Employed persons who started their current job in the previous 12 months.

Labour force

The civilian population is split into two mutually exclusive groups: the labour force (employed and unemployed persons) and persons not in the labour force. The definitions conform closely to the international standard definitions adopted by the International Conferences of Labour Statisticians.

Left a job

Persons who are classified as voluntarily ceasing their last job.

Level of highest educational attainment

Level of highest educational attainment identifies the highest achievement a person has attained in any area of study. It is not a measurement of the relative importance of different fields of study but a ranking of qualifications and other educational attainments regardless of the particular area of study or the type of institution in which the study was undertaken. It is categorised according to the Australian Standard Classification of Education, 2001 (cat. no. 1272.0) Level of education classification.

Level of highest non-school qualification

A person's level of highest non-school qualification is the highest qualification a person has attained in any area of formal study other than school study. It is categorised according to the Australian Standard Classification of Education, 2001 (cat. no. 1272.0) Level of education classification.

Long-term unemployed

Persons whose duration of current period of unemployment is 12 months or more.

Looking for work with more hours

Looked for work with more hours at some time during the four weeks up to the end of the reference week.

Lost a job

Persons who have worked for two weeks or more in the past two years and who left that job involuntarily.

Main activity when not in the labour force

The main activity of persons who are not in the labour force since they last worked or looked for work (or in the last 12 months if they haven't worked in the last year).

Main difficulty in finding work

The self reported main difficulty in finding work experienced during the current period of unemployment.

Main job

The job in which most hours are usually worked.

Marginal attachment to the labour force

Persons who were not in the labour force in the reference week, wanted to work and:

- were actively looking for work but did not meet the availability criterion to be classified as unemployed; or
- were not actively looking for work but were available to start work within four weeks; or
- were waiting to start a new job already obtained and persons who had been away from work without pay for four weeks or longer and had not been actively looking for work.

The criteria for determining those in the labour force are based on activity (i.e. working or looking for work) and availability to start work during the reference week. The criteria associated with marginal attachment to the labour force, in particular the concepts of wanting to work and reasons for not actively looking for work, are more subjective. Hence, the measurement against these criteria is affected by the respondent's own interpretation of the concepts used. An individual respondent's interpretation may be affected by their work aspirations, as well as family, economic and other commitments.

For more information see article Understanding the Australian Labour Force Using ABS Statistics in Labour Force, Australia (6202.0).

Non-economic reasons

Non-economic reasons for full-time workers having worked fewer than 35 hours in the reference week include:

- holiday, flexitime or study leave;
- own illness or injury or sick leave;
- standard work arrangements, shift work or rostered day(s) off;
- on strike, locked out or took part in an industrial dispute;
- bad weather or plant breakdown;
- began, left or lost job during the reference week; and
- personal reasons.

Not available to start work

Refers to persons who were not available to start work with more hours either in the reference week, or in the four weeks following the interview.

Not fully employed

Persons who are not fully employed comprise part-time workers who would prefer to work more hours, and full-time workers who worked part-time hours in the reference week for economic reasons.

Number of offers of employment

The number of separate offers of employment received during the current period of unemployment.

Occupation

An occupation is a collection of jobs that are sufficiently similar in their title and tasks, skill level and skill specialisation which are grouped together for the purposes of classification. In this publication, occupation refers to Major Group and Sub-Major Group as defined by ANZSCO - Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, 2013, Version 1.2 (cat. no. 1220.0).

Owner managers of incorporated enterprises (OMIEs)

Persons who work in their own incorporated enterprise, that is, a business entity which is registered as a separate legal entity to its members or owners (also known as a limited liability company). These persons are classified as employees under 'status of employment'.

Owner managers of unincorporated enterprises (OMUEs)

Persons who operate their own unincorporated enterprise, that is, a business entity in which the owner and the business are legally inseparable, so that the owner is liable for any business debts that are incurred. Includes those engaged independently in a trade or profession. These persons are classified as employers under 'status of employment' if their business has employees, or own account worker if they do not.

Part-time preference

Persons who preferred to work one to 34 hours a week. For this survey, part-time preference is derived by applying data collected on respondents' preferred number of hours to those who intended to or might enter the labour force in the next 12 months.

Part-time workers

Employed persons who usually worked fewer than 35 hours a week (in all jobs) and either did so during the reference week, or were not at work during the reference week.

Personal reasons for not actively looking for work¹

Includes 'own short-term illness or injury' or 'long-term health condition or disability', 'pregnancy', 'attending an educational institution', 'had no need to work', 'welfare payments or pension may be affected', and 'moved house or on holidays'.

Persons not in the labour force

Persons not in the labour force can be divided into those who are marginally attached to the labour force, and those who are not. Persons who are marginally attached to the labour force satisfy some, but not all, of the criteria required to be classified as unemployed.

Persons not in the labour force are considered to be marginally attached to the labour force if they:

- wanted to work and were actively looking for work (but, unlike unemployed persons, were not available to start work in the reference week); or
- wanted to work and were not actively looking for work but were available to start work within four weeks.

Persons not in the labour force are not marginally attached to the labour force if they:

- did not want to work; or
- wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks.

Preferred number of hours

The number of hours unemployed persons would like to work each week.

Preferred number of extra hours

The number of extra hours a week an underemployed worker would have preferred to work.

Preferred total number of hours

The total number of hours per week an underemployed worker would prefer to work.

Reasons for turning down job offers¹

Classifies reasons for turning down job offers in current period of unemployment according to the following categories:

- Unsuitable Job Conditions
 - Unsatisfactory pay/conditions
 - Not in locality or line of work
 - Hours unsuitable
 - Unwilling to move state/city
 - Too far to travel
- Personal reasons
 - Own short-term illness or injury
 - Own long-term health condition or disability
 - Pregnancy
 - Welfare/pension payments may be affected
 - Returned to study
- Family reasons
 - Childcare
 - Ill health of other than self
- Other
 - Waiting to start another job/starting new business
 - Other reasons
 - Did not know

Status of Employment

Classifies employed persons according to the following categories on the basis of their current job:

- Employees
 - with paid leave entitlements
 - without paid leave entitlements
- Owner managers of incorporated enterprises
 - with employees
 - without employees
- Owner managers of unincorporated enterprises
 - with employees
 - without employees
- Contributing family workers

Stood down

Persons who are in a situation where an employer is unable to provide useful work for its employees, for a particular period of time, for circumstances beyond its control.

Suitable job

A suitable job is:

- any job for which the person is qualified (if applicable), is capable of performing and which provides adequate job conditions (including pay, hours, travel to work, etc.).
- it is a job that would be accepted by the person irrespective of whether a move was required.

Time since last job

The elapsed time since ceasing the last job.

Underemployed workers

Underemployed workers are employed persons who would prefer, and are available for, more hours of work than they currently have. They comprise:

- part-time workers who would prefer to work more hours and were available to start work with more hours, either in the reference week or in the four weeks subsequent to the survey; and
- full-time workers who worked part-time hours in the reference week for economic reasons (such as being stood down or insufficient work being available). It is assumed that these persons would prefer to work full time in the reference week and would have been available to do so.

Unemployed

Persons aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and:

- had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week; or
- were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week, and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.

Usual number of hours

The number of hours usually worked in a week.

Wanted to work

Persons not in the labour force who were not actively looking for work who answered 'yes' or 'maybe' when asked if they would like a job, as well as those persons not in the labour force who were actively looking. It is assumed those persons actively looking want a job.

With paid leave entitlements

The entitlement of employees to either paid holiday leave or paid sick leave (or both) in their current job. Persons employed in their own business or who were contributing family workers were not asked questions about paid leave entitlements.

Without paid leave entitlements

Employees who were not entitled to, or did not know whether they were entitled to, paid holiday leave and paid sick leave in their current job.

End Note: 1. Reasons provided by respondents in this item are not mutually exclusive categories.

Population Concordance (Appendix)

APPENDIX POPULATION CONCORDANCE WITH PREVIOUS SURVEYS

This release combines the key elements from the Persons Not In The Labour Force (PNILF), Job Search Experience (JSE), Underemployed Workers (UEW) and Labour Mobility (LMOB) to provide a comprehensive and coherent dataset on characteristics of people's employment.

Caution should be exercised when comparing the estimates from this release with previous surveys as some population groups are conceptually different.

The following table provides a concordance of populations groups used in this release with population groups from previous Participation, Job search and Mobility surveys:

Population Concordance			
Populations	PJSM 15/16	PJSM 17	PJSM 18
Civilian population aged 15 years and over	Population 1	Population 1	Population 1
Employed persons	Population 2	Population 2	Population 2
Employed persons who would prefer more hours	Population 3	Population 3	Population 3
Part-time workers who would prefer more hours	Population 4	Population 4	Population 4
Underemployed workers	Population 5	Population 5	Population 5
Underemployed part-time workers	Population 6	Population 6	Population 6
Employed persons who started their current job in the previous 12 months	Population 7	Population 7	Population 7
Employed persons who worked in their current job for 12 months or more	Population 8	Population 8	Population 8
Employees who worked in their current job for 12 months or more	...	Population 9	Population 9
Employees who started their current job in the previous 12 months	Population 9	Population 10	Population 10
Persons employed for more than a year in their current job who looked for work in the previous 12 months	Population 10	Population 11	Population 11
Persons who worked at some time during the year ending February	Population 11	Population 12	Population 12
Persons who were working last February	Population 12	Population 13	Population 13
Persons currently employed and employed last February	Population 13	Population 14	Population 14
Persons who ceased a job during the year ending February	Population 14	Population 15	Population 15
Employed persons who ceased a job in the year ending February	Population 15	Population 16	Population 16
Unemployed persons	Population 16	Population 17	Population 17

Persons not in the labour force	Population 17	Population 18	Population 18
Persons not in the labour force who wanted to work	Population 18	Population 19	Population 19
Persons not in the labour force who looked for work	Population 19	Population 20	Population 20
Persons not in the labour force with marginal attachment to the labour force	Population 20	Population 21	Population 21
Persons who had a job to go to	Population 22
Persons not in the labour force who wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	Population 21	Population 22	Population 23
Persons not in the labour force who were discouraged job seekers	Population 22	Population 23	Population 24
Persons not in the labour force who wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks	...	Population 24	Population 25
Persons not in the labour force because they were caring for children who wanted to work but not actively looking for work	Population 23	Population 25	Population 26
Persons not in the labour force whose last job was less than 10 years ago	Population 24	Population 26	Population 27

Quality Declaration - Summary

QUALITY DECLARATION - SUMMARY

INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

For information on the institutional environment of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see ABS Institutional Environment.

RELEVANCE

The Participation, Job Search and Mobility (PJS) survey presents information about participation, underemployment, marginal attachment, job mobility and job search. The collection of a range of socio-demographic and labour force characteristics makes the datasets produced from the survey extremely valuable for comparing and analysing a person's experience relating to job search, job change and increasing participation, all of which can be cross classified by other employment characteristics such as hours worked, industry, occupation and sector of job as well as personal characteristics.

TIMELINESS

The Participation, Job Search and Mobility survey was conducted in February 2018 as a supplement to the ABS monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). Results from this survey are released in the publication *Participation, Job Search and Mobility, Australia* (cat. no. 6226.0).

ACCURACY

Estimates from the PJS are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors. Relative standard error (RSE) is a measure of the size of the sampling error affecting an estimate, i.e. the error introduced by basing estimates on a sample of the population rather than the full population. Non-sampling errors are inaccuracies that occur due to imperfections in reporting by respondents and interviewers, and errors made in coding and processing data.

This publication was designed primarily to provide estimates at the Australia level. Broad estimates are available for state/territory and/or capital city/balance of state, though users should exercise caution when using estimates at this level because of the presence of high sampling errors. Relative Standard Errors for all estimates are available in the relevant Data Cube. More information on Standard Errors is available in the Technical Note of this release.

For further information regarding the accuracy of the PJS survey estimates see the Technical Note.

COHERENCE

This survey will inform on the following broad labour market issues - Labour force participation potential, underemployment and marginal attachment, as well as job search experience and labour mobility. This information can be cross classified by characteristics such as duration of job search, last job details, hours worked, industry and occupation as well as personal characteristics.

Care should be taken when comparing the estimates from 2018 PJSM survey with previous years topics as Persons Not In The Labour Force (PNILF) and Underemployed Workers (UEW) were previously collected in September, Job Search Experience (JSE) in July and Labour Mobility (LMOB) was collected in February. Collection of data from this combined survey was undertaken in February. The populations used in each may not be directly comparable.

For more information on the history of changes to PNILF, see the Explanatory Notes (cat. no. 6220.0).

For more information on the history of changes to UEW, see the Explanatory Notes (cat. no. 6265.0).

For more information on the history of changes to JSE, see the Explanatory Notes (cat. no. 6222.0).

For more information on the history of changes to LMOB, see the Explanatory Notes (cat. no. 6209.0).

INTERPRETABILITY

Contained within PJSM are Data Cubes with footnoted data to aid interpretation of the results of the survey, detailed Explanatory Notes, a Technical Note and a Glossary are also included providing information on the terminology, classifications and other technical aspects associated with these statistics.

Further commentary is often available through articles and data published in other ABS products, including:

- Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

DATA ACCESS

Participation, Job Search and Mobility, Australia (cat. no. 6226.0) is released electronically via the ABS website as Data Cubes in spreadsheet format. Additional data may be available on request (subject to data quality). Note that detailed data can be subject to high relative standard errors. Full details of data items for this survey are available from the Downloads tabs in Data Cube: PJSM 2018 Populations and Data items list.

For users who wish to undertake a more detailed analysis of the data, the survey microdata will be released through the TableBuilder product. For more details, refer to the TableBuilder information, Microdata, Participation, Job Search and Mobility, Australia (cat. no. 6226.0.00.001). For more information see About TableBuilder.

For more information about ABS data available on request, contact National Information and Referral Service in Canberra on 1300 135 070 or via email to <client.services@abs.gov.au>.

Data Quality (Technical Note) (Technical Note)

TECHNICAL NOTE

Reliability of the Estimates

1 The estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from a sample survey. Any data collection may encounter factors, known as non-sampling error, which can impact on the reliability of the resulting statistics. In addition, the reliability of estimates based on sample surveys are also subject to sampling variability. That is, the estimates may differ from those that would have been produced had all persons in the population been included in the survey.

Non-sampling error

2 Non-sampling error may occur in any collection, whether it is based on a sample or a full count such as a census. Sources of non-sampling error include non-response, errors in reporting by respondents or recording of answers by interviewers and errors in coding and processing data. Every effort is made to reduce non-sampling error by careful design and testing of questionnaires, training and supervision of interviewers, and extensive editing and quality control procedures at all stages of data processing.

Sampling error

3 Sampling error is the difference between the published estimates, derived from a sample of persons, and the value that would have been produced if the total population (as defined by the scope of the survey) had been included in the survey. One measure of the sampling error is given by the standard error (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of persons was included. There are about two chances in three (67%) that a sample estimate will differ by less than one SE from the number that would have been obtained if all persons had been surveyed, and about 19 chances in 20 (95%) that the difference will be less than two SEs.

4 Another measure of the likely difference is the relative standard error (RSE), which is obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate.

$$RSE\% = \left(\frac{SE}{estimate} \right) \times 100$$

5 RSEs for count estimates have been calculated using the Jackknife method of variance estimation. This involves the calculation of 30 'replicate' estimates based on 30 different subsamples of the obtained sample. The variability of estimates obtained from these subsamples is used to estimate the sample variability surrounding the count estimate.

6 The Excel spreadsheets in the Downloads tab contain all the tables produced for this release and the calculated RSEs for each of the estimates.

7 Only estimates (numbers or percentages) with RSEs less than 25% are considered sufficiently reliable for most analytical purposes. However, estimates with larger RSEs have been included. Estimates with an RSE in the range 25% to 50% should be used with caution while estimates with RSEs greater than 50% are considered too unreliable for general use. All cells in the Excel spreadsheets with RSEs greater than 25% contain a comment indicating the size of the RSE. These cells can be identified by a red indicator in the corner of the cell. The comment appears when the mouse pointer hovers over the cell.

8 Another measure is the Margin of Error (MOE), which shows the largest possible difference that could be between the estimate due to sampling error and what would have been produced had all persons been included in the survey with a given level of confidence. It is useful for understanding and comparing the accuracy of proportion estimates.

9 Where provided, MOEs for estimates are calculated at the 95% confidence level. At this level, there are 19 chances in 20 that the estimate will differ from the population value by less than the provided MOE. The 95% MOE is obtained by multiplying the SE by 1.96.

$$MOE = SE \times 1.96$$

Calculation of Standard Error

10 Standard errors can be calculated using the estimates (counts or percentages) and the corresponding RSEs. See What is a Standard Error and Relative Standard Error, Reliability of estimates for Labour Force data for more details.

Proportions and Percentages

11 Proportions and percentages formed from the ratio of two estimates are also subject to sampling errors. The size of the error depends on the accuracy of both the numerator and the denominator. A formula to approximate the RSE of a proportion is given below. This formula is only valid when x is a subset of y:

$$RSE \left(\frac{x}{y} \right) \approx \sqrt{[RSE(x)]^2 - [RSE(y)]^2}$$

Differences

12 The difference between two survey estimates (counts or percentages) can also be calculated from published estimates. Such an estimate is also subject to sampling error. The sampling error of the difference between two estimates depends on their SEs and the relationship (correlation) between them. An approximate SE of the difference between two estimates (x-y) may be calculated by the following formula:

$$SE (x - y) \approx \sqrt{[SE(x)]^2 + [SE(y)]^2}$$

13 While this formula will only be exact for differences between separate and uncorrelated characteristics or sub populations, it provides a good approximation for the differences likely to be of interest in this publication.

Significance Testing

14 A statistical significance test for a comparison between estimates can be performed to determine whether it is

likely that there is a difference between the corresponding population characteristics. The SE of the difference between two corresponding estimates (x and y) can be calculated using the formula shown above in the Differences section. This SE is then used to calculate the following test statistic:

$$\left(\frac{x - y}{SE(x - y)} \right)$$

15 If the value of this test statistic is greater than 1.96 then there is evidence, with a 95% level of confidence, of a statistically significant difference in the two populations with respect to that characteristic. Otherwise, it cannot be stated with confidence that there is a real difference between the populations with respect to that characteristic.

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